DBH
Division of Behavioral Health

Missouri Department of Mental Health
Division of Behavioral Health

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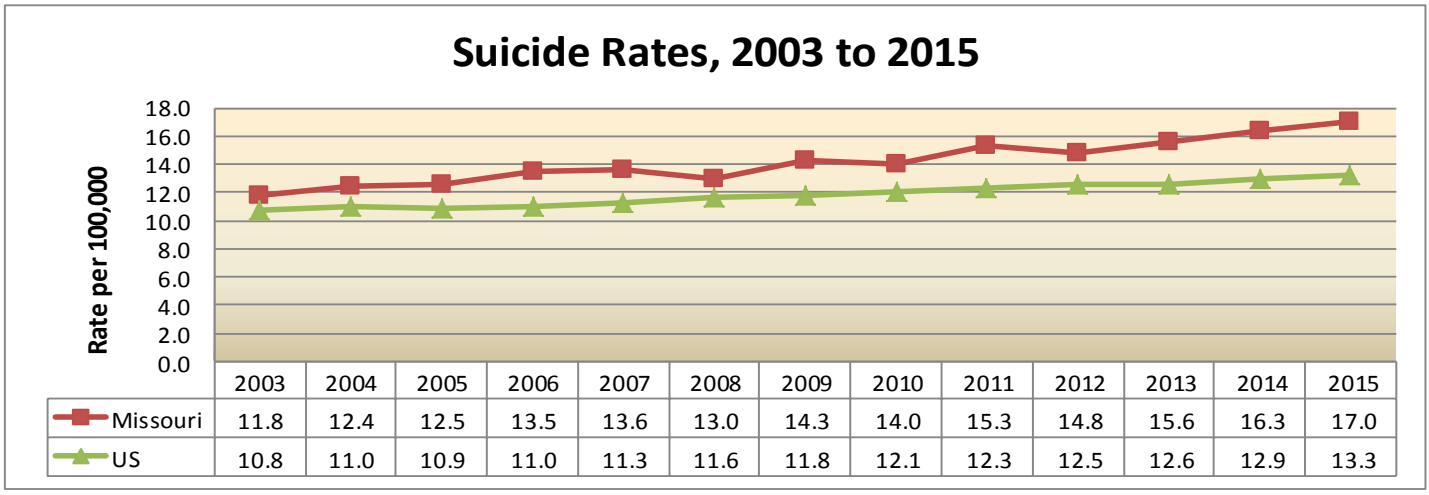
What is Happening with Suicide Rates

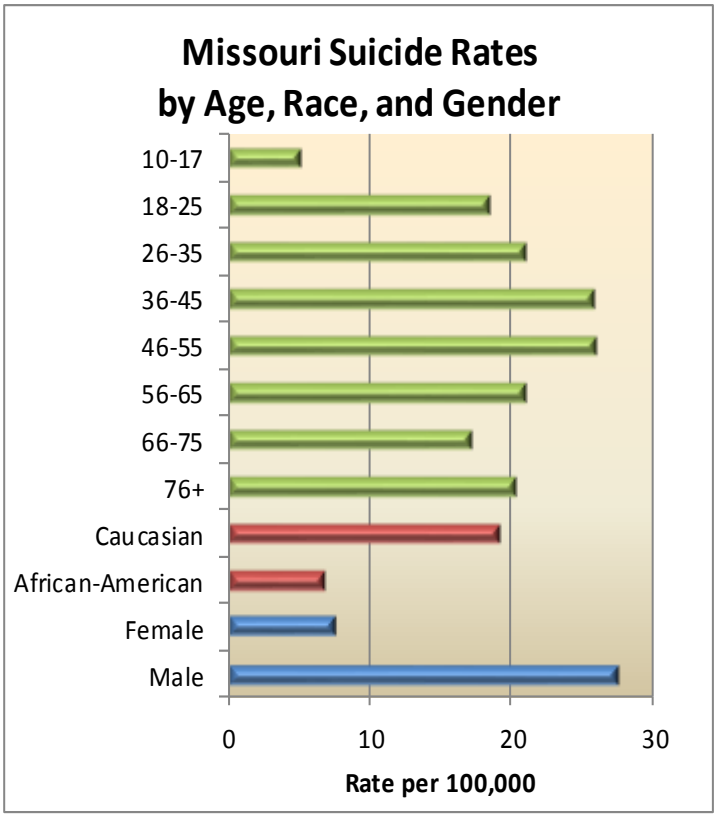
The suicide rates in the United States and Missouri have been increasing over the past 10 years. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death. In 2015, Missouri had 1,052 suicides or a rate of 17.0 suicides per 100,000 persons. Compared to other states, Missouri ranked 17th. By age, those between 36 and 55 years had higher suicide rates compared to younger and older groups. Caucasians had a suicide rate of about 2.8 times that for African-Americans. Males had a suicide rate about 3.7 times that for females. Overall, Caucasian men account for 72 percent of all suicides in Missouri. It is not fully understood why the suicide rates are increasing or why men are disproportionately dying by suicide. Some experts suggest that contributing factors may include employment insecurity, relationship breakups, misuse of prescription pain medications, and stigma associated seeking treatment. Suicide is a public health issue that is preventable.



	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Missouri	11.8	12.4	12.5	13.5	13.6	13.0	14.3	14.0	15.3	14.8	15.6	16.3	17.0
US	10.8	11.0	10.9	11.0	11.3	11.6	11.8	12.1	12.3	12.5	12.6	12.9	13.3

Data source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fatal Injury Reports 1999-2015

- *The suicide rate in Missouri is higher than the rate for the United States.*
- *Among all states, Missouri ranks 17th.*
- *Caucasian, middle-aged men have the highest suicide rate.*
- *Risk factors can vary from one person to another but some common ones include:*
  - ◊ *Mental health conditions including depression and anxiety*
  - ◊ *Increased or heavy use of alcohol or drugs including prescription drugs*
  - ◊ *Serious or chronic health condition*
  - ◊ *Stressful events like a death, divorce / break-up, or job loss*
  - ◊ *Prolonged stressful situation*
- *More information is available at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/*



For more information please contact the Division of Behavioral Health at (573)751-4942 or email: adamail@dmh.mo.gov